

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, with claims 19 and 20 having been withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 9, 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,891,726 to Suwa et al. (Suwa); and claims 2, 4-8, 10 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suwa.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as follows.

As noted in Applicant's previous Amendments, Applicant's independent claim 1 provides a head drum assembly comprising a unique combination of features, including, *inter alia*, a rotary drum comprising an inner surface facing the shaft of the assembly and an outer circumferential surface opposite to the inner surface, and a motor rotor provided opposite to the motor stator, the motor rotor comprising a rotor case and a rotor magnet attached directly to the rotor case, the rotor case being directly bonded to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum (see Applicant's claim 1). On the other hand, Applicant's independent claim 9 provides a method for manufacturing a head drum assembly comprising a unique combination of method steps, including, *inter alia*, bonding the rotor case of the motor rotor directly to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum whose inner surface faces the shaft of the assembly.

Contrary to the Examiner's analysis, Suwa does not disclose, teach, or even remotely suggest such unique combinations of features or method steps. In particular, Suwa discloses a conventional magnetic head device having a first tape guide drum 2 fixedly supported by shaft 1 and second tape guide drum 4 rotatably supported by shaft 1 and facing the first guide drum 2. A

driving electric motor 21 drives tape guide drum 4 and thereby magnetic head 3 secured to the guide drum 4, where:

A rotor magnet 22 forming the driving electric motor 21 is attached to a rotor yoke 23 and has a ***central cylindrical section 24 fitted to the lower side of the shoulder 12 of the bearing housing 10*** mounting the second tape guide drum 4. A stator coil 25 is securely mounted to the inner peripheral surface of the first tape guide drum 2 through the medium of a stator base plate 26 so that the stator coil is in a facing relation with respect to the rotor magnet 22. In this manner, by placing the rotor yoke 23 below the second tape guide drum 4 and also placing the stator coil 25 on the inner peripheral surface of the first tape guide drum 2, the driving electric motor 21 may be disposed substantially within the interior space of the first tape guide drum 2. (*Id.*, col. 4, lines 27-46, *emphasis added; see also Id.*, Figs. 1 and 4)

Thus, in contradistinction to Applicant's claims 1 and 9, Suwa does not disclose, teach or suggest bonding a rotor case directly to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum whose inner surface faces the shaft. Instead, in Suwa, cylindrical section 24 of rotor yoke 23 of the electric motor 21 is fitted to the lower side of shoulder 12 (*see Id.*, Figs. 1 and 4).

Notably, and in further contradistinction to Applicant's claimed invention, Suwa describes section 24 in detail with reference to Fig. 1, rather than Fig. 4 cited by the Examiner, where it is shown that portion 24 is also not directly connected to rotor yoke 23 of electric motor 21.

Accordingly, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 9, as well as the dependent claims 2, 3, 11, 17 and 18 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims 1 and 9), are not anticipated by (i.e., are not readable on) Suwa at least for these reasons. Likewise, Applicant's dependent claims 2, 4-8, 10 and 12-16 would not have been obvious from Suwa at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to their respective base claims 1 and 9.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application with claim 1-18 are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview,

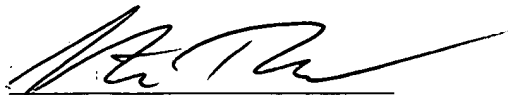
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Appln. No.: 10/667,500

the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 18-2220. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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